

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1133

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 1147

NODIS

EYES ONLY FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY)

SUBJ: TRAVEL TO AFRICA BY SECRETARY

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS RAISED INFORMALLY SUBJECT OF YOUR PROPOSED AFRICAN TRIP AND HAS URGED THAT GHANA BE INCLUDED AMONG THE COUNTRIES ON ITINERARY. FYI: GHANA'S 1975 VISITORS INCLUDED FONMINS OF CANADA AND FRG.

2. AS YOU KNOW FROM OUR LAST CONVERSATION ON OCTOBER 28, I STRONGLY ENDORSE THIS AND ADD MY OWN REQUEST THAT ACCRA BE INCLUDED. GHANA'S GOVERNMENT IS ESSENTIALLY MODERATE IN OUTLOOK BUT ITS MODERATION, PARTICULARLY NOW, NEEDS THE KIND OF REINFORCEMENT YOUR PERSONAL PRESENTATION OF AMERICAN NEWS COULD PROVIDE. I CITE, FOR EXAMPLE, THE TEMPERATE AND WELL-REASONED RESPONSE FROM HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMPONG TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER ON ANGOLA. GHANA DID NOT AGREE WITH US BUT STATED ITS VIEWS WELL AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR LETTER TOGETHER WITH HOPE THAT CHANNELS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE OPEN. YOU WILL BE RECEIVED WARMLY BY COLONEL ACHEAMPONG AND BY COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS COLONEL FELLI AND THEIR COLLEAGUES.

3. GHANA, AS THE FIRST AFRICAN NATION TO BECOME INDEPENDENT AFTER WORLD WAR II, HAS EXERCISED A LEADERSHIP ROLE AMONG OAU COUNTRIES BUT THIS LEADERSHIP HAS CLEARLY DECLINED SINCE
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THE NKRUMAH PERIOD. IT STILL REMAINS A RESPECTED VOICE NONE-

THELESS WHICH IS NOW BEING EXPRESSED THROUGH FELLI IN HIS CURRENT TRIP TO SEVERAL NEIGHBORING NATIONS. FELLI'S MESSAGE IS, WE UNDERSTAND, THAT WHILE OTHERS SHOULD RECOGNIZE THE MPLA THEY SHOULD AT SAME TIME PRESS MPLA TO TAKE UNITA INTO GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION WHICH IT WOULD HEAD. WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE GHANA TO TAKE POSITIONS WHICH IF NOT PARALLEL TO OURS, ENCOMPASS UNDERSTANDING OF OUR VIEWS. I BELIEVE YOUR VISIT HERE WOULD BE EXCEPTIONALLY HELPFUL AND VERY USEFUL TO USG.

4. WISH TO UNDERLINE ALSO THAT US IS NOW LARGEST FOREIGN INVESTOR IN GHANA AND LARGEST CONSUMER OF GHANA'S MAIN MONEY EARNER, COCOA. US-GHANA ECONOMIC RELATIONS OF KEY IMPORTANCE HERE.

5. I HOPE TO DISCUSS VISIT WITH YOU DURING MY CONSULTATIONS MARCH 1-3.
BLACK

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